
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire
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SENATOR GREGG SECURES \$1.75 MILLION FOR NORTH COUNTRY, WHITE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN SENATE FUNDING BILL

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today announced that the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior has included \$1.75 million at his request in the Fiscal Year 2004 Senate Interior Appropriations bill. The projects include \$1 million for the Hubbard Brook Research Forest, \$500,000 for the Northern Forest Partnership Program, and \$250,000 for the continued development of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. A full description of each project can be found on the attached sheet. Senator Gregg, a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, was able to include \$6.48 million for conservation initiatives across New Hampshire in the bill. The measure, which was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee this afternoon, is now ready by consideration from the entire Senate.

Senator Gregg stated, "As Granite Staters, we take tremendous pride in the beauty and tradition surrounding the White Mountains and the Northern Forest. The careful balance of environmental preservation, recreational access and appropriate economic activity is one that has been met with tremendous energy and foresight by the people and organizations overseeing the northern part of our State. These three projects are perfect examples of locally-driven programs that will promote the health of our mountains and forests while making sure that generations to come are able to share in the same resources that we enjoy today."

Stephen Blackmer, President of the Northern Forest Center, stated, "The Northern Forest Partnerships Program is exactly what is needed now for northern New Hampshire and across the Northern Forest region. We are delighted by Senator Gregg's effort to bring support to innovative, community-generated projects that address heritage, economic, and conservation needs in New Hampshire and across the region. We are grateful for Senator Gregg's commitment to the people and communities of the Northern Forest as well as for his longstanding leadership in land conservation."

Rob Center, Northern Forest Canoe Trail Executive Director, stated, "The Northern Forest Canoe Trail would like to extend its sincere appreciation for Senator Gregg's assistance with the funding that continues to strengthen our organization and make this historical, long-distance paddling trail a physical reality. Our combined efforts are touching the lives of residents of Northern Forest communities in the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York, as we work to make the Trail into a quality recreational resource for all of the Northeast, as well as a focus corridor for cultural heritage, environmental conservation, economic development and educational projects throughout the Northern Forest Region."

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Fiscal Year 2004 Interior Appropriations Bill

Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Member, Interior Appropriations subcommittee

\$1 million – Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest – \$1 million for infrastructure improvements, education and the further development of an Ecosystem Research Co-op at the 7,800 acre research area in the White Mountain National Forest. Overseen by the Northeastern Ecosystem Research Cooperative (NERC), Hubbard Brook has been one of the most comprehensive forest research sites in North America since its establishment in 1955 due to the wide range of ecosystems incorporated within the forest. This is done through a collaboration of existing research sites throughout the northeast to construct regional databases and increase interaction among scientists. Senator Gregg was previously able to secure a total of \$2 million for Hubbard Brook in the FY 02 and 03 Interior Appropriations bills.

\$500,000 – Northern Forest Partnership Program – These funds will help implement a small grants program to support innovative, community-generated projects that address economic, community and conservation needs in New Hampshire, and across the four state Northern Forest region. The program, which will be administered through the Northern Forest Center in Concord, will support voluntary partnerships and leverage resources to improve social, cultural, economic, and environmental well-being.

\$250,000 – Northern Forest Heritage Canoe Trail – Funds will be used to continue ongoing work with local communities along the 740-mile length of the trail, including developing and printing maps, constructing kiosks and creating signage, printing the heritage story of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, *Paddling Through Time*, and expanding the annual Stewardship Awards Program, which provides small grants to communities along the Trail. In New Hampshire in 2002, Tri-County Community Action Programs, Inc. received an award to lead the efforts to create a stewardship committee for the New Hampshire section of the trail, which includes the Upper Connecticut River from North Stratford to Groveton, the Upper Ammonoosuc River and the Androscoggin River from Lake Umbagog to Milan.

The development of the Trail will not only improve access to rivers and encourage canoe recreation in northern New Hampshire, but will also increase awareness of the need to protect our environmentally sensitive historical landmarks. The trail is a 740 mile canoe trail stretching from the Adirondacks of upstate New York to northern Maine. These funds will help ensure that the entire length of the trail is passable by canoe with special attention paid to historic landmarks or portages and securing the availability of overnight accommodations for the duration of the trail. The NFCT is aiming to create an educational resource for trail visitors and local residents as well as create a system for managing the upkeep of the trail. In the Fiscal Year 2003 and 2002 Interior Appropriations measures, Senator Gregg was able to include a total of \$500,00 for the Canoe Trail.

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